1944

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Loyola College
Montreal Canada

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT DAY

Rector's Report

Your Excellency, Distinguished guests, Graduates of 1944, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The word "Welcome" is a pleasant word both to utter and to hear. To our loyal Alumni, friends and distinguished guests this evening, Loyola speaks it warmly.

Insert re Archbishop

We feel honoured and happy to have as our Speaker for Loyola's Forty-eighth Annual Convocation, Lt.-General Andrew McNaughton, a man whose name through four stern years of war became a symbol of achievement and courage both to Canada's Armed Forces and in Canadian homes.

General McNaughton is not a stranger to Loyola. It was our privilege to assist him prepare his three sons for life during their entire High School Course. And while we grieve with him for Ian, his eldest, who met an airman's death in the skies over Germany, we share his pride that all three rose swiftly in the hour of their country's need to follow in their gallant father's footsteps.

We are pleased in having with us to-night a large number of old friends - members of the College Club, an organization which for the past twenty-five years has been intimately associated with the College.

The peak enrollment of students during the past year and in Loyola's history was six hundred and twenty. This increase, it is true, was chiefly in the High School. The future of the College, then, is doubly assured, for we look forward, in the coming peace, to the return of our many students serving in the Armed Forces.

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Insert after "Loyola speaks it warmly"

In honouring us with his presence this evening, His Excellency the Archbishop of Montreal manifests again that genuine interest and encouragement we have consistently found in him since his appointment to the Archdiocese. And to strike a more personal note, I would like to mention here my deep appreciation for the kindness I have always found at the Palace.

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Both the efforts and results of our students in their studies we find to be satisfactory. Our traditional faith in the formative value of the humanities we are happy to see confirmed in the publicized plans for post-war education, especially in the authoritative survey based on the answers of more than one hundred and fifty American university presidents. A marked return to the Liberal Arts is widely foreseen and accounted desirable.

Our newly established Scientific Department, offering courses leading up to the Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and the various branches of Engineering, has just completed its first year. Great credit is due to the Professors of Science both for undertaking this new development and for accomplishing so much during its pioneering year.

An Extension Course leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree was also initiated this year. Students reading for a degree under this plan will complete a programme and must manifest a standard of proficiency equivalent to the requirements of the regular degree course, but will obviously be allowed a longer time to complete their credits. Saturday lectures were given in Philosophy, General Chemistry, English and Latin during the current scholastic year and will be supplemented by an intensive Summer School, planned to last a complete month. It is gratifying to note the number of school teachers who are following these lectures.

We are indebted to Father William X. Bryan for the work he has so well done in connection with the founding of a Labour School at the Catholic Centre. After several meetings with officials of the labour unions

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affiliated with both the Trades and Labour Congress and the Canadian Congress of Labour, a start was made in providing promising young labour men with education in Catholic Social Principles and the Teachings of the Popes on modern social problems. Father Bryan has held classes regularly during the last few months and it is hoped that a full-fledged Labour School will be in operation next September.

The year ending to-night has been a particularly strenuous one for the Faculty. The extra demands made upon them by the Scientific Department and Extension Courses have been generously and loyally met. Commencement Day, better than any other, is a fitting occasion to express our gratitude and admiration to the Dean of Studies, Father McCarthy, and to every member of the teaching staff.

Besides the usual weekly tests and Semester examinations, Class Specimens in which all the High School Classes took part, testified clearly to the diligence and progress of the students.

Interest and standards in Public Speaking, established during a long tradition at the College, were maintained during the year. Intramural debating was active in both the College and High School. The Inter-University debating team reached the finals and lost by a narrow margin to Western University of London, Ontario. The Public Speaking awards were closely contested and our High School representatives made a creditable showing in the open competitions.

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As a change from last season's Macbeth, the Dramatic Society this year chose the current Broadway success, "Arsenic and Old Lace" as its major effort. Both acting and staging were widely commended. A number of lesser plays, presented in conjunction with other events, completed the year's work.

The Sodality of Our Lady, a basic institution in every Jesuit college for more than two hundred years, still plays its historic role in the spiritual life of Loyola. Both College and High School Sodalities took part in the Montreal demonstration on "World Sodality Day", held on the Loyola Campus on May the I4th.

The great importance of the Sodality in American College and parochial life was fully realized by the Jesuit Fathers and led to the establishment in Saint Louis, Missouri, of a National Headquarters with Father Daniel Lord,S.J., as National Director. The work of this Headquarters' Staff has greatly expanded, giving as one of its more recent services, a Summer School of Catholic Action in four regional centres of the United States and Canada: New York, Chicago, San Antonio and Montreal. Last summer, for the first time, Father Lord brought his faculty of some twenty-five assistants to Montreal and offered forty-nine different courses on various aspects of religious, social and parochial life to approximately two thousand registered students. Father Lord and his Staff will return this year to hold a Second Montreal Summer School of Catholic Action at the College during the last week of this month.

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Under the command of Lt.-Colonel Thomas Guerin, assisted by Major Denis Inwood and Captain G. Herbert Cook, the Loyola Battalion, Canadian Officers Training Corps successfully completed their Camp Period at Farnham last summer and the training and examinations for the present academic year. In addition to a continued loss of personnel throughout the year, a number of our graduates have already manifested their intention of transferring immediately to the Active Army.

The 64 (Loyola) Squadron of the Air Cadets of Canada, under the command of Squadron Leader W. H. Loucks, assisted by five other Alumni officers, rounded out the year's training with Inspection on May the 29th. Air Vice-Marshall Victor Walsh, O.B.E., and Old Loyola '14, gave the unit high commendation for their smartness and discipline on parade and for their year's record.

Included in the long list of Old Loyola men serving with the Navy, Army and Air Force, there are no less than nine chaplains who were associated with Loyola either as students or teachers or both. May I again draw the attention of relatives and friends to the fact that every Friday morning of the year mass is offered at the College that God may keep and guard all Loyola men in the Services, on land and sea and in the air.

In the course of the year death claimed two members of Loyola's earliest Faculties, and two students of the present year. Father Francis Doyle and Father Edward O'Gara taught on Drummond Street in the first decade of the century and subsequently served many years as Parish Priests, the one at the Church of Our Lady in Guelph, Ontario, and the other at St. Ignatius

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in Winnipeg. Drowning took both students, Lawrence Tallon of First Year High and Albert Picotte of Senior College, but a few weeks before Graduation. To the bereaved families we extend our very sincere condolences.

Twenty-seven former Loyola students have already paid the supreme sacrifice in this war, ten of whom died in the past year. We pay tribute to their memory and assure their parents and friends that they are remembered in the many masses offered daily at the College by their former professors.

In spite of the absence of many of its members with the Armed Forces, the Alumni Association continued its regular reunions and monthly luncheons. It is our happy privilege to record the ordination to the Priesthood of six Alumni: Fathers Lionel Stanford, Maurice Stanford, Frederick O'Grady, John Prendergast and Lawrence Braceland, all of the Society of Jesus, and Stephen Aylward of the Diocesan Clergy of North Carolina.

We offer our congratulations to His Excellency James Murray, C.SS.R., of the Class of '05, on his nomination as Coadjutor Archbishop of Winnipeg, and to Father Joseph O'Hagan, Parish Priest of St. Aloysius Parish, Montreal, on his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood which he will celebrate on the 18th of June.

To the Loyola Mother's Guild, under the Presidency of Mrs. John J. Doyle, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for their sustained interest and generosity. Largely because of the Guild, we are pleased to note an increased interest on the part of parents in both the academic and athletic

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activities of the College and a closer cooperation between parents and Faculty. During the year the Guild refurnished and redecorated the Infirmary and provided the cups and medals for our recently successful Field Day.

The Lecture series held each year under the auspices of the Loyola Alumni Ladies Auxiliary met with its usual success. A more extensive course is planned for the coming year.

To these and to all our other benefactors, great and small, for their good will, encouragement, counsel and generosity we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude.

And now a word to you, My dear Graduates of 1944. During your years at Loyola we have tried to help you prepare to meet life and solve its problems according to principles and ideals we hold to be sound and inspiring. We would have liked to see you leave us to enter a more settled, peaceful world. The choice rests neither with you nor with us. Still we have faith in the future and we have faith in you. The degree you received to-night testifies to some measure of readiness. Face that future with courage, courage enlightened by what you have learned at Loyola of the wisdom of religion, and of the highest thinking of men down through the centuries, and remember though "it is not always ours to achieve success but only to labour on its behalf", through that labour you will grow in holiness and knowledge. And thus fortified you can best serve God and your Country.

May God bless and keep you always.